THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strategy adopted for dealing with national calamities envisages building up of capabilities at National, State, District, Block and Village levels for mitigation and preparedness for natural and manmade disasters as well as for rapid intervention in the event of such disasters. This, *inter-alia,* involves strengthening of search and rescue capabilities by training and equipping specialized teams. Action has been initiated to train such teams at the national level.

(c) In December, 2002, the Ministry of Home Affairs *inter-alia* advised the State Governments to consider setting up specialized composite search and rescue teams comprising one coy. of the State Armed police trained and equipped to carry out specialized search and rescue, one mobile engineering unit with necessary equipments and one medical assistance team. The steps taken by the State Governments will be reviewed in the Conference of State Relief Commissioners in March 2003.

Setting up of Integrated Command for Disaster Management

†811. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any Rapid Action Force or Integrated Command for disaster management, if so, the details thereof alongwith their jurisdiction ;

(b) who will Head the integrated command, what will be his jurisdiction and whether command will be permanent or temporary; and

(c) whether Government have taken any immediate action by conducting any inquiry into it, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for coordinating/supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic support in the event of natural calamities and manmade disasters of severe nature. A proposal for the establishment of a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in the Ministry of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Home Affairs has been initiated. The NDMA will, *inter alia,* be responsible for coordinating mandating Government's policies for disaster reduction/mitigation, ensuring adequate preparedness at all levels; coordinating response to a disaster when it strikes and coordination of post disaster relief and rehabilitation. The State Governments have been advised to consider setting up State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA) under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary for coordinating the aforementioned functions at State level. The NDMA, which will coordinate all functions at apex level, will be a permanent organization. Action has also been initiated to train and equip specialized search and rescue teams at National level which will function as Rapid Response Units in case of a disaster. The State Governments have also been advised to consider setting up specialized search and rescue teams for this purpose.

Specialized rescue team for disaster

812. SHRI B.R SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised all the State Government to set up specialized search and rescue teams to tackle emergency disastrous situation like earthquake, storm train accidents and fire etc;

(b) if so, the names of States that have formed as well as those that have not formed such teams; and

(c) in view of increase in train accidents and earthquakes the steps that have been taken by Government against the States who have not formed any kind of specialized rescue team for disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) In December, 2002, the Ministry of Home Affairs, *inter-alia,* advised the State Governments to consider setting up specialized composite search and rescue teams comprising one coy. of the State Armed Police trained and equipped to carry out specialized search and rescue, one mobile engineering unit with necessary equipments and one medical assistance team. The State Governments have also been advised that the teams may be trained together so as to